

Message Text

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UNCLAS MOGADISCIO 1581

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SO, GE

SUBJECT: EAST GERMAN LEADER TO VISIT SOMALIA

1. THE AMBASSADOR OF THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC (GSDR) IN SOMALIA, HORST KOEHLER, ANNOUNCED ON SEPTEMBER 28 THAT THE CHAIRMAN OF THE STATE COUNCIL OF THE GDR, WILLI STOPH, WILL PAY A FOUR-DAY STATE VISIT TO SOMALIA, BEGINNING ON SEPTEMBER 30, AT THE INVITATION OF SOMALI PRESIDENT MOHAMED SIAD BARRE.

2. KOEHLER SAID THE VISIT REFLECTED THE CLOSE COOPERATION THAT HAS DEVELOPED BETWEEN THE GDR AND THE SDR SINCE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WERE OPENED IN 1970, AS WELL AS THE TWO COUNTRIES' "COMMON POLITICAL VIEWS IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST IMPERIALISM".

3. COMMENT: STOPH IS CURRENTLY VISITING THE NEARBY PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN (ADEN) AND IT WAS LOGICAL FOR HIM TO MOVE ON TO SOMALIA, WHOSE SCIENTIFIC SOCIALIST IDEOLOGY AND WORLD VIEW ARE CLOSELY SIMILAR. STOPH'S VISIT TO SOMALIA IS BILLED AS HIS FIRST TO AFRICA SOUTH OF THE SAHARA.
JACOBS

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